GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2436
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
CRISIS IN FARM SECTOR
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farm sector is experiencing severe crisis;

(b) if so, the specific causes for the deepening crisis in farm sector; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): In the recent times, there has been a deceleration in the growth of agriculture. This is mainly because of drought and other natural calamities as well as problems like inadequate investment, low irrigated area, inadequate flow of credit, low productivity, and inadequate marketing infrastructure. These problems have caused hardships to the farmers in some areas of the country.

In order to make the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic with the objective to increase production and productivity, the Government has taken several initiatives, which include enhancing the flow of institutional credit to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure, ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs, promoting farmer friendly and demand driven agriculture extension system, accelerating diversification to high value crops, launching of national horticulture mission, strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through drip and sprinkler techniques, enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rainfed farming system, reforming agricultural markets, widespread use of post harvest technology and putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.